

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The indication of allowable subject matter at claims 2-7 is appreciatively noted.

Dependent claim 2 has now been amended to self-standing independent format thus leaving claims 2-7 in fully allowed status.

The rejection of claims 1 and 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by Itoh '041 is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claims 8 and 9 have now been made dependent from allowed claim 2.

Rejected claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice so as to expedite allowance of this application. Accordingly, the outstanding ground of rejection has been mooted and it is not believed necessary therefor at this time to further explain the reasons for such traversal.

The Examiner's attention is also drawn to new method claims 10-17 which can be analogized to allowed apparatus claims 2-9.

The Examiner's note at the middle of page 4 concerning an encouragement to file formal drawings is not understood. There is no outstanding objection to the drawings as originally filed. Furthermore, the originally filed drawings appeared, to the undersigned, to be of sufficient quality to be acceptable as "formal" drawings. Another clean copy of such drawings is attached hereto for the Examiner's convenience.

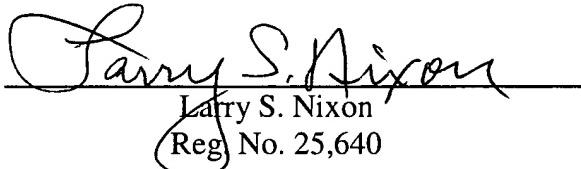
OKUGAWA et al.  
Appl. No. 10/810,750  
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If there is any actual deficiency in the drawings now of record, then it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be telephoned as soon as possible so that prompt corrective action may be taken.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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